REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 15, 2005. Claims 5 and 11-22 have been canceled. Subject matter of claim 5 has been added to claim 1, so that no new issues have been presented. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are now pending.

The Examiner has already indicated in the Advisory Action dated March 14, 2006 that all claims now pending are allowable. Thus, the application should be in condition for allowance, and no new issues have been presented herein.

Claim 1 was at one point rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Izumi in view of Sumino. This Section 103(a) rejection was respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons (and the Examiner allowed claim 1 in the March 14, 2006 Advisory Action in view of these remarks).

Claim 1 requires that "the color filters are arranged at a predetermined pitch px in a row direction and at another predetermined pitch py in a column direction, respectively, and wherein the spacers include a spacer set consisting of five spacers with no other spacers therebetween, wherein the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer, the spacers of the first pair being separated from each other by a distance of m · px (where m is an integer equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction, the spacers of the second pair being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of n · py (where n is a positive integer and a multiple of 2) in the column direction, the central spacer being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of m · px/2 in the row direction and by a distance of n · py/2 in the column direction, respectively."

For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates that the spacers (2R, 2B, 2G) include a spacer set consisting of five spacers (see dotted outline in Fig. 1

for example) with no other spacers therebetween, and where the spacer set of five spacers

consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair of spacers, and a central spacer, the spacers of the

first pair being separated from each other by a distance of m · px (where m is an integer equal to

or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3 – m=2 in Fig. 1) in the row direction, the spacers of

the second pair being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of n · py (where n

is a positive integer and a multiple of 2 – n=4 in Fig. 1) in the column direction. Fig. 1 also

illustrates the central spacer being separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of m ·

px/2 in the row direction and by a distance of n · py/2 in the column direction, respectively.

Thus, it will be appreciated that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of claim

5 and also to clarify that no other spacers are provided between the fiver spacers of the claimed

spacer set. E.g., see Fig. 1 and paragraphs [0064] to [0066] of the instant specification.

Izumi and Sumino fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1.

The spacers 7 in Fig. 5 of Izumi clearly cannot meet the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1,

because the spacers 7 in Fig. 5 of Izumi are provided between every pair of adjacent color filters.

Thus, in Izumi there can be no spacer set consisting of five spacers with *no other spacers*

therebetween, where the spacer set of five spacers consists of a first pair of spacers, a second pair

of spacers, and a central spacer. Moreover, Izumi cannot possibly disclose that the spacers of a

first pair in the set are separated from each other by a distance of m · px (where *m is an integer*

equal to or greater than 2 but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction. Furthermore, Izumi

also cannot possibly be said to disclose that the spacers of a second pair of the set are separated

from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of n · py (where *n is a positive integer and a*

multiple of 2) in the column direction as called for in claim 1. Finally, Izumi also fails to

disclose or suggest that the central spacer of a set is separated from the spacers of the first pair by

a distance of m · px/2 in the row direction and by a distance of n · py/2 in the column direction, respectively, as called for in claim 1. Izumi cannot disclose or suggest these features because in Fig. 5 of Izumi there is a spacer 7 between all adjacent pairs of color filters 4.

Sumino also fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1. For instance, Sumino cannot possibly disclose that the spacers of a first pair in the set are separated from each other by a distance of m · px (where *m is an integer equal to or greater than 2* but is not a multiple of 3) in the row direction. Furthermore, Sumino also cannot possibly be said to disclose that the spacers of a second pair of the set are separated from the spacers of the first pair by a distance of n · py (where *n is a positive integer and a multiple of 2*) in the column direction as called for in claim 1.

Thus, even the allege combination of Izumi and Sumino (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1. Citation to Shibahara cannot cure the aforesaid flaws of Izumi and Sumino.

Given the Examiner's indication in the March 14, 2006 Advisory Action that claims 1-4 and 6-10 have been allowed, the application is now in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

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Respectfully submitted,

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